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**FIRE FACT NO. 058 CHECKLIST(s) :**  
**TITLE : FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS 6 OR MORE**  
**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : LODGING, DORMITORY**  
**REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133**  
**PAGE 1 of 4**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Fire Fact provides information with regard to fire and life safety features required for various types of foster care settings for facilities housing 6 (six) or more children in foster care. This information is designed only for those settings where the children are capable of self-preservation measures. Facilities providing Infant care and care for the physically and mentally challenged may be classified as "Institutional" by the Fire and Building Codes and will have attendant increases in fire and life safety requirements. This information will be helpful to licensed community service providers and other agencies or individuals who provide services or care for foster children.

Please keep in mind that different rules apply depending upon [1] the number of individuals living in a home or other residential setting; [2] the level of support those children would need in the event of a fire or other emergency; and [3] whether the current usage of the facility constitutes a "previously approved existing" or "new" operation. New operations must meet the fire and life safety provisions of the current Building Code enforced in the community or the current Building Code enforced by KSFM [if no local Code is adopted; at this time the 91 UBC is the State minimum standard]

Fire and life safety risk increases proportionally with the number of residents. Existing Facilities with six (6) or more residents have more fire and life safety requirements than those with less than six and those with 16 or more clients have additional requirements beyond those specified for the 6-15 client facility. Existing Facilities with 6-15 occupants will be inspected to the requirements of section 99 General and section 99-L of the Kansas Buildings Fire Safety Handbook [KBFSHB]. Existing Facilities with more than 15 occupants will be inspected to the requirements of section 99 General and section 99-D of the KBFSHB.

New facilities, in accordance with the Uniform Building Code, will be R3 congregate residences [if housing 10 or less clients] and R1 congregate residences [if housing 11 or more clients]. Communities using the BOCA, SBCCI or IBC Building Codes may have slightly different occupancy categories but will have similar safety provisions. The R1 occupancy has additional fire and life safety requirements and picks up automatic sprinkler requirements at the 20th occupant or 16 or more "dwelling/sleeping rooms".

## Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

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**PAGE 2 of 4**

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### EXISTING FOSTER CARE PREVIOUSLY LICENSED FOR 6-15 CHILDREN

- L01 Every sleeping room and living area shall have access to a primary means of egress so located as to provide a safe path of travel to the outside of the building. Where the sleeping room is above or below the level of exit discharge, the primary means of escape shall be an interior stair, an exterior stair, a horizontal exit, or an existing fire escape stair.
- L02 In addition to the primary route, each sleeping room and living area shall have a second means of escape. **EXCEPTION:** If the sleeping room or living area has a door leading directly outside the building with access to grade or to an exterior stairs, that exit shall be considered as meeting all of the exit requirements for that sleeping room or living area.
- L03 Every bathroom door shall be designed to allow opening from the outside during an emergency when locked. (See Fire Fact 014)
- L04 No door in any means of egress shall be locked against egress when the building is occupied. **EXCEPTION:** 1) Special-locking arrangements as approved and documented in writing by the KSFM. 2) Doors serving a single family dwelling unit shall be permitted to be provided with a lock. (See Fire Fact 014)
- L05 Lodging and rooming houses shall be provided with a fire alarm system or detector system. **EXCEPTION:** Buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system.(See Fire Fact 005, 006, 007, 031, 036, 037, 045)
- L06 Approved single station (only notifies occupants of room detector located) or multiple station smoke detectors powered by the building electrical service shall be installed on every level. In addition, approved single station smoke detectors powered by the building electrical service shall be provided in each sleeping room. **EXCEPTION:** Existing battery powered detectors shall be accepted where, in the opinion of the KSFM, the facility has demonstrated testing, maintenance, and battery replacement programs that ensure reliability of power to the detectors. (See Fire Facts 005, 006, 007, 031, 036, 037)
- L07 Doors serving a single family dwelling unit shall be permitted to be provided with a lock.

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**PAGE 3 of 4**

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**EXISTING FOSTER CARE PREVIOUSLY LICENSED FOR 16 OR MORE CHILDREN**

- D01 Occupied floors which are 75 feet or more above adjoining ground level shall allow re-entry from the stairs or have automatic release upon actuation of fire alarm system.
- D02 Buildings which have occupied floors 75 feet or more above adjoining ground level shall have standby power of the capacity and rating sufficient to supply all required equipment: emergency lighting system, fire alarm system, electric fire pump, central control station equipment and lighting, at least one elevator, and any mechanical equipment for smokeproof enclosures. (See Fire Fact 005, 006, 007, 031)
- D03 Buildings which have occupied floors 75 feet or more above adjoining ground level shall be protected throughout by a Class I 2-1/2" standpipe for fire department use. May be dry and hoseless. (See Fire Fact 046)
- D04 Buildings, which have occupied floors 75 feet or more above adjoining ground level shall have, complete automatic sprinkler protection. (See Fire Fact 045)
- D05 A smoke detector powered by the building power shall be provided in each sleeping room (in correctional facilities smoke detectors are permitted to be behind return air grills to protect the equipment from the occupants of the sleeping room) and 1) be powered by the building electrical system and properly maintained, or, 2) battery detectors previously approved by KSFMO and testing is properly documented in writing. Inspector will spot-check battery operated detectors to verify operation. (See Fire Facts 005, 006, 007, 036, 037)
- D06 A manually operated fire alarm system is required in all dormitories except where each sleeping room has an exterior exit to grade level **and** the building is not over 3 stories in height. (See Fire Facts 005,006,007,031)
- D07 Elevator firefighter service testing shall be conducted monthly on elevators with a rise of over 25-ft and equipped with firefighter service. Documentation available on site. (See Fire Fact 005, 007)
- D08 The maximum travel distance shall not make it necessary to travel more than 100 feet from the door of any room to reach the nearest exit (200 feet in fully sprinkled buildings).
- D09 The minimum flame spread of Class B (0-75) in stairways, and corridor walls and ceilings. Refer to General Checklist item 99-66 (See Fire Fact 022)

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**PAGE 4 of 4**

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- D10 Emergency lighting shall be provided in the stairs and corridors in buildings with over 25 rooms. (See Fire Fact 005, 006, 007, 024)
- D11 Automatic smoke detectors in each elevator lobby/entry for elevators with vertical travel of 25 feet or more to actuate recall of elevator for firefighter service is required. (See Fire Fact 005, 006, 007, 031, 036)
- D12 Corridor-room protection shall be a minimum of 30-minute construction. Room doors shall be a minimum of 1-3/4 inch solid bonded doors, filled metal doors, or 20 minute labeled smoke and draft doors. In sprinkled buildings, doors only need to resist passage of smoke. No unprotected openings through corridor wall, for example transom or transfer grills, including bathrooms and unoccupied rooms, **unless** previously approved and documented in writing by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.
- D13 Each building floor shall be constructed as a smoke barrier (Ducts DO NOT require smoke dampers). Vertical openings around pipes or ducts shall be sealed with non-combustible materials, **unless** previously approved and documented in writing by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.
- D14 Laundries with commercial (larger capacity than residential) dryers shall be separated from other rooms and corridors by either: 1) a one hour fire resistive barrier with ¾ hour fire door assemblies self closing and latching doors; **or** 2) automatic sprinkler protection & enclosure to limit the spread of smoke (See Fire Fact 040, 045)